

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Poland	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Call-Up of Medical Graduates for Military Training	DATE DISTR.	24 November 1954
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1. Men who graduated this year from the medical academies in Szczecin (Stettin) and Poznan were called up for one month's military training. This took place in the training camp near Drawsko. At the completion of training an examination was held. Army ranks granted to students were dependent on results of the final military studies examinations which they took while at the academies, and the results of the examination taken in camp. Two graduates were granted the rank of second lieutenant and the rest that of warrant officer.
2. At camp most of the theoretical and practical training was devoted to "defense against the atom bomb". The hydrogen bomb, on the other hand, was never mentioned, and when a student asked a question about it the lecturer left the question unanswered. After the lecture he told the man in private that he should not take an interest in matters not mentioned by the lecturer.
3. The following information was given regarding atom bomb defense:
 - a. A shelter dug in the ground, with a meter-thick earth roof and an entrance protected by a sheet saturated with a special solution provides complete protection against blast and gives a 50-percent protection against radio-active rays.
 - b. As regards protection against heat, the students were told that there is no protection whatever up to a distance of one kilometer from the point of the actual explosion, and beyond that distance the temperature is bearable.
 - c. Radio-active rays become effective about 50 seconds after the explosion of the bomb, and this affords sufficient time for protective measures to be taken in a prepared shelter.
4. The students dug shelters as described above. These did not appear to differ in any way from ordinary ground shelters.

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5. Lecturers and instructors on the course were Polish officers most of whom spoke with a Russian accent. During lectures students were constantly reminded of the necessity of keeping military secrets and they were not allowed to take notes during most of the lectures. Apart from training much time was spent on ideological discussions.
6. At the end of the course it was suggested that the graduates should volunteer for regular service in the armed forces. It was added that an army doctor's pay was considerably higher than that of a civilian doctor. The minimum pay of an army doctor is 1,600 zl. monthly, and there are opportunities for promotion and private practice. When no students volunteered they were told that five of them would be called up for regular service in the armed forces, but no names were given.
7. Food during the course was very poor, both in quality and in quantity. A graduate said that during his whole life he had not eaten such a quantity of groats as during the month's course in the army.

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